AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

2. (currently amended): A sealed container, which comprises

a container with an end being closed and the other end being open, comprising a thermoplastic resin, and

a stopper being detachable and capable of sealing the open end of the container,

the stopper having a head portion capable of being grasped, a leg portion A being extended downward from the head portion, being along an internal wall surface of the open end of the container, and being capable of exerting a fitting force to the internal wall surface, and a leg portion B being extended downward from the head portion, being along an external wall surface of the open end of the container, and being capable of exerting a fitting force to the external wall surface, and

a deflection temperature, under a load of 0.45 MPa or 0.46 MPa, of at least a portion of the leg portion B of the stopper, which contacts the container, is higher than a deflection temperature, under a load of 0.45 MPa or 0.46 MPa, of at least a portion of the container, which contacts the leg portion A of the stopper;

wherein the leg portion A of the stopper is made of a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermosetting elastomer or the leg portion A has a surface layer comprising a thermoplastic

elastomer or a thermosetting elastomer at least at a portion contacting with the internal wall surface of the container.

3. (original): The sealed container according to claim 2,

wherein a distance of the leg portion B of the stopper contacting with the external wall surface of the container is shorter than a distance of the leg portion A of the stopper contacting with the internal wall surface of the container in the longitudinal direction of the container.

4. (previously presented): The sealed container according to claim 2,

wherein a position of the fitting force exerted between the leg portion A of the stopper and the internal wall surface of the container being greatest and a position of the fitting force exerted between the leg portion B of the stopper and the external wall surface of the container being greatest are located at different positions in the longitudinal direction of the container.

5. (currently amended): The sealed container according to claim 2,

wherein the leg portion A of the stopper has the ~~a~~ surface layer comprising a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermosetting elastomer at least at the ~~a~~ portion contacting with the internal wall surface of the container.

6. (previously presented): The sealed container according to claim 2,

wherein the stopper has a needle pipe insertable portion comprising a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermosetting elastomer.

7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented): The sealed container according to claim 3,

wherein a position of the fitting force exerted between the leg portion A of the stopper and the internal wall surface of the container being greatest and a position of the fitting force exerted between the leg portion B of the stopper and the external wall surface of the container being greatest are located at different positions in the longitudinal direction of the container.

9. (currently amended): The sealed container according to claim 3,

wherein the leg portion A of the stopper has the ~~a~~ surface layer comprising a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermosetting elastomer at least at the ~~a~~ portion contacting with the internal wall surface of the container.

10. (currently amended): The sealed container according to claim 4,

wherein the leg portion A of the stopper has the ~~a~~ surface layer comprising a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermosetting elastomer at least at the ~~a~~ portion contacting with the internal wall surface of the container.

11. (previously presented): The sealed container according to claim 3,

wherein the stopper has a needle pipe insertable portion comprising a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermosetting elastomer.

12. (previously presented): The sealed container according to claim 4,

wherein the stopper has a needle pipe insertable portion comprising a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermosetting elastomer.

13. (previously presented): The sealed container according to claim 5,

wherein the stopper has a needle pipe insertable portion comprising a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermosetting elastomer.

14. (previously presented): A vacuum specimen-sampling container, comprising:

the sealed container according to claim 2, the inside thereof being in a reduced atmospheric pressure state.

15. (previously presented): A vacuum specimen-sampling container, comprising:

the sealed container according to claim 3, the inside thereof being in a reduced atmospheric pressure state.

16. (previously presented): A vacuum specimen-sampling container, comprising:

the sealed container according to claim 4, the inside thereof being in a reduced atmospheric pressure state.

17. (previously presented): A vacuum specimen-sampling container, comprising:

the sealed container according to claim 5, the inside thereof being in a reduced atmospheric pressure state.

18. (previously presented): A vacuum specimen-sampling container, comprising:

the sealed container according to claim 6, the inside thereof being in a reduced atmospheric pressure state.

19. (previously presented): The sealed container according to claim 2, wherein the deflection temperature, under a load of 0.45 MPa or 0.46 MPa, of the at least the portion of the leg portion B of the stopper, which contacts the container, is 60°C or more, and

the deflection temperature, under a load of 0.45 MPa or 0.46 MPa, of the at least the portion of the container, which contacts the leg portion A of the stopper, is 60°C or more.